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American Folklife Center Launches Field Survey Of Pinelands National Reserve in New Jersey

The Library's American Folklife Center is beginning a survey of traditional culture in New Jersey's Pinelands National Reserve this month. The National Reserve, which was created in 1978 by an Act of Congress, encompasses the region in south-central New Jersey known as the Pine Barrens—a million acres of sand beneath a stubble of short pine trees and scrubby oaks, broken occasionally by the dark, wet green of cedar swamps. The area is inhabited by cranberry growers, farmers, some who commute to jobs around the region, and some who "work the cycle," hunting for deer and rabbits, trapping for furs, tonging for clams and oysters, making charcoal, or gathering moss and other plants.

The Pinelands Folklife Project will evaluate a broad range of folk technology, craft, and expression found within the National Reserve. For two months, a team of researchers trained in folklore, anthropology, ethnobiology, environmental psychology, American studies, and photography will identify and document aspects of the region's folklife. A series of in-depth studies based on the survey's findings will get under way next spring.

The project is distinguished from cultural surveys that have already been conducted in the Pinelands in its emphasis on living cultural resources. Traditional activities to be documented include storytelling, folk music (religious and secular), folk architecture and landscaping, foodways, crafts, seasonal events and festivals, and family and community social life. The project will also examine the region's distinctive natural environment, including the interrelations of folklife with natural resources and landscapes. Traditional ways of classifying and harvesting the region's flora and fauna, of naming and navigating the woodlands and wetlands, and of forecasting the weather and decorating the landscape will be investigated, as will the rich vein of folklore about the region's people and places.

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Note to Readers: The article on the Library's Optical Disk Pilot Program that appears on pp. 312–6 of this issue is the first in an occasional series on this project.

The survey is being performed under the combined auspices of the Pinelands Commission, the U.S. National Park Service, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, the New Jersey Historical Commission, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the New Jersey Department of Human Services.

The project will serve as a pilot study in several ways. The Pinelands National Reserve is a unique category of public land. The National Reserve concept provides for continued development of the land in accordance with guidelines established by a commission composed of Federal, state, and local representatives. The Pineland Commission hopes to apply some of the study's findings in carrying out its mandate to manage and interpret the region's resources, cultural as well as natural.

The project will also serve to exemplify and test some of the premises underlying the study entitled *Cultural Conservation*, a policy document soon to be published by the American Folklife Center and the U.S. Department of the Interior. The report recommends that government agencies join forces to conserve the living cultural resources that are often less tangible, though no less real, than the historic artifacts and archaeological sites that a region inherits from its past.

The project will employ documentary still photography and sound recordings as well as field notes and drawings. The original materials generated by the project will be added to the collections of the Library of Congress as a resource from which copies, published products, and future research can be derived. A reference archive to be housed in New Jersey will facilitate future interpretive programming in the region.

The *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* is issued weekly by the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies, and allied organizations in the United States.

Comparable institutions and organizations in other countries may arrange to receive the *Bulletin* on the exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Exchange and Gift Division. All other correspondence should be addressed to the LC *Information Bulletin*, Information Office, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540.

Library Plans Saturday Series Of Concerts by New Artists

The Saturday Series, which will present outstanding new concert artists performing in the Library's Coolidge Auditorium, will be inaugurated on Saturday, October 1, at 5:30 p.m. with a recital by violinist Mihaela Martin with pianist Paul Ostrovsky. Miss Martin, who is from Bucharest, Romania, won the gold medal at the first International Violin Competition of Indianapolis (Ind.) in September 1982. As part of her prize, the 24-year-old violinist will give a Carnegie Hall recital in addition to her performance at the Library of Congress and will make numerous other appearances throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe.

The pianist on October 1 will be Paul Ostrovsky, a recent emigré from the U.S.S.R. who performs throughout the United States and Europe, frequently collaborating with violinist Shlomo Mintz.

For their program on October 1, Miss Martin and Mr. Ostrovsky will perform the Sonatensatz in C minor by Brahms, Prokofiev's Sonata in F minor, Op. 80, Schubert's Fantasia in C major, D. 934, and the Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso of Saint-Saëns.

Other artists who will perform in the Saturday Series are the Ridge Quartet, winner of the Coleman and Fischoff competitions in 1982, on October 15; Naumburg Award winners baritone Jan Opalach on March 17, violist Thomas Riebl with pianist Deborah Sobol on March 31, the Jubal Trio on April 7, and the Colorado String Quartet on May 12; and baritone Henry Herford, winner of the 1982 International American Music Competition for Vocalists, on March 10.

Tickets for these programs will be available from the Music Division several weeks before each event. Persons wishing to reserve tickets should call (202) 287–5502.

LC Officials, Periodical Publishers Meet on Optical Disk Pilot Program

The print portion of the Library's Optical Disk Pilot Program will include a number of heavily used periodicals, and permission to include these periodicals on the Library's disks is being sought. In an attempt to secure these permissions, The Deputy Librarian of Congress William J. Welsh held a meeting with publishers of these journals and trade association representatives on June 21. The purpose of the meeting was to share information regarding the project with publishers and also to address any concern they may have. Representatives from 17 pub-

lishers and from the Association of American Publishers, the Copyright Clearance Center, and the Magazine Publishers Association were present.

The meeting was structured to describe the Library of Congress and its problems regarding preservation of, space for, and access to materials. Mr. Welsh opened the meeting with an overview of the Library and the optical disk project. Peter Sparks, director of the Preservation Office, then described the various preservation efforts to which the Library is committed. Specific information about the Library's Optical Disk Pilot Program was provided by Joseph Price, chief of the Science and Technology Division and director of the pilot project.

The Deputy Librarian then asked for comments from the publishing representatives. There was much positive response, but some concerns about the project were expressed. Most of the questions raised during the meeting concerned payments to publishers and protection for copyright holders during the course of the project. Publishers wanted to know about the quality of the disks and the amount of material to be included on them, as well as the scope of the use planned for the disks. In addition, representatives were concerned about protection for publishers and copyright holders after the experiment is over, if the Library decides to implement an optical disk system.

Library officials assured the representatives that the Library is committed to cooperating with publishers and would like to work with them in determining and responding to their needs. To date, response from the publishers of periodicals tentatively selected for inclusion in the project has been, in general, positive.

Library Seeks Applicants for Science Reference Librarian Opening

A GS–9 level vacancy for a librarian (science reference librarian) with promotion potential to the GS–12 level has been announced for the Library's Science and Technology Division. The new announcement for this position, No. 30634, opened to receipt of applications on September 2 and is expected to close on October 2. A master's degree in library science with a bachelor's degree in electrical or electronic engineering, physics, mathematics, chemistry, oceanography, or geology is required.

Ability to read easily written Japanese scientific texts is also required. An addendum describing in detail the applicant's ability to read Japanese scientific and technical vocabulary must be submitted with the application form.

Major duties of this position involve responding to reference inquiries in the fields of science and technology and compiling selective bibliographies. Employees of the Library of Congress may apply through the usual channels. Interested persons outside the Library of Congress may apply by submitting an SF–171 (Personal Qualifications Statement) and the required language addendum (a plain sheet of paper attached to the SF–171 may be used for the addendum) to the Library of Congress, Employment Office, room LM 107, Madison Building, Washington, D.C. 20540.

Applications must be received in the Employment Office by the final closing date of the announcement. All applications and other materials submitted for this position become the property of the Library of Congress. Applicants need not have civil service status, but U.S. citizenship is required. SF–171 forms are generally available from Federal Job Information Centers and from personnel offices of Federal Government Agencies. Resumes, late applications, incomplete applications, and applications not submitted on the appropriate application form will not be accepted.

Chinese Jurists Visit LC

Two distinguished jurists from the People's Republic of China and their assistants visited the Far Eastern Law Division and the Law Library on August 19 and 22. Ni Zhengao, the legal advisor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Huang Jiahua, the director of the Department of Treaties and the Law of the same ministry, toured the reading room and looked at the international law collection. Dr. Ni, who is the foremost scholar of international law in China and who has represented China at the International Law Commission of the United Nations in the past decade, has written extensively on various aspects of international law. Dr. Ni met with Tao-tai Hsia, chief of the Far Eastern Law Division, to discuss China's legal development in general and the Chinese practice of international law in particular. It was a happy reunion for both men—some 30 years ago in China, Dr. Ni had been Dr. Hsia's tutor.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

OPTICAL DISK PILOT PROGRAM

Research Access and Use: The Key Facet of the Nonprint Optical Disk Experiment

By Carl Fleischhauer

Preface

The Library of Congress Disk Pilot Project consists of two parts: print and nonprint. The print program will preserve and access text materials, notably periodicals. The nonprint portion will preserve and access image materials, including still photographs, architectural drawings, cartoons, motion pictures, and television programs. It will also work with sound recordings. The following article will outline the various aspects of the nonprint experiment. A later article will cover the print experiment.

The nonprint program may be viewed as a family of related experiments. The print experiment, in its organization and presentation of similar textual items, is much more homogeneous. The nonprint experiment will make creative use of existing technology—laser video disks, compact digital audio disks, and computers—while the print program will create and use new digital technology.

Introduction and Overview

The Experiment

The nonprint project within the Library of Congress Optical Disk Pilot Program is an experiment in this sense: if the disks help the Library perform its work better, more use of them will be made in the future. If not, little further use of them will be made. Since the disks will probably be of greater use for some materials and purposes than others, the experiment will identify the areas of greatest utility. This document will mention all facets of the experiment, but will describe plans for research access and use in some detail.

Two types of disks will be created as part of the nonprint experiment: analog-signal laser video disks for visual materials and digital audio disks for sound recordings. Laser video disks are recorded with the NTSC (National Television Systems Committee) signal used for U.S. broadcast television. This signal offers a good quality image on a standard television screen. The compact audio disks use a digital recording system that is capable of near-perfect representation of the waveforms of sound. Digitization will permit infinite recreation of the waveform without loss or distortion.

The Disks and the Collections

A total of eight disks will be created, containing materials from two Library divisions. Disks one through six will be laser video disks, while disks seven and eight will be digital audio disks. The list below identifies the source of the material on the disk and its content.

(1) Prints and Photographs Division. About 40,000 images from eight collections. The collections include the World Transportation Commission collection of lantern slides by William H. Jackson; the Detroit Publishing Co. glass negatives, color prints, and albums; the Farm Security Administration and Office of War Information color transparencies; the Abdul-Hamid II Collection; the Yankee Poster Collection; and a group of selected architectural drawings.

(2) Prints and Photographs Division. About 10,000 images from three collections. The collections are the Cabinet of American Illustration, the American Cartoon Drawings Collection, and the Master Architectural Drawing Collection.

(3) Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division. Nearly 100,000 motion picture publicity stills.

(4) Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division. A selection of seven films and film segments with special color preservation problems. Titles to be included are *Women of Tomorrow, Unusual Occupations, With the Marines at Tarawa, Alaskan Grandeur, Jewel of the Baltic, A Handful of Dreams,* and picture-only test segments from *Taxi Driver.*

(5) Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division. A selection of 30-odd titles from the 3,000-item paper print collection. These films focus on President William McKinley, his assassination, and the 1901 Pan-American Exposition.

(6) Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division. Two CBS Television network newscasts from the 1976 fourth of July weekend.

(7) and (8) Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division. Two concerts recorded in the Library's Coolidge Auditorium.

Implications for Preservation

If the disks live up to their promise, they will help preserve the Library's collections in four ways. First, some disks will reproduce items with sufficient quality to permit the Library to consider discarding the original. Second, the use of some disks will substantially decrease the wear and tear on collections caused by handling. Third, some disks will offer a kind of preservation compromise: although they will not reproduce the item perfectly, they offer the Library the best possible preservation option at this time. And fourth, there are a few collections that will be enhanced by the very act of putting them on disk.

The two audio disks (7 and 8) and the teleproductions video disk (6) should perfectly reproduce the items they represent. The NTSC television signal, however, cannot faithfully reproduce the fine detail of an architectural drawing or a large-format photograph. The

STAFF NEWS

Faye M. Vass Dies
Retired from Copyright Office in 1961

Faye M. Vass, who retired from the Library in August 1961 following more than 18 years of service here, died of pneumonia on Monday, August 22, at Northern Virginia Doctors Hospital. She was 85. Her friends and family remember her as having had a great enthusiasm for life even though afflicted with Parkinson's Disease for the past 17 years.

At the time of her retirement, Mrs. Vass was supervisor of the Incoming Mail Room in the Copyright Office. All of her Library service, which began in March 1943, was with the Copyright Office.

A native of Raleigh County, W. Va., Mrs. Vass attended high school and business college there and taught in elementary school for eight years. She also worked for the State Road Commission in Charleston, W. Va., before moving to the Washington, D.C., area in 1935.

Her survivors include two daughters, Mary L. of Falls Church, Va., who is a member of the staff of the Library's Manuscript Division, and Carol J. Carver of Fort Washington, Md.; one son, Charles E. of Waldorf, Md.; a grandaughter, Cathryn C. Delgado of Silver Spring, Md.; and two sisters, Alma Haga of Ventura, Calif., and Rebecca Keyes of Glendale, Calif. Her husband, Karl D. Vass, to whom she was married for 54 years, died in 1982.

Funeral services were held on August 25 at the Colonial Funeral Home in Falls Church, Va., with interment following in National Memorial Park in Falls Church.

William T. Walsh Dies
Chief of FRD for 20 years

William T. Walsh, chief of the Federal Research Division from 1951 to 1971, died on July 19 in Leesburg, Fla., following a short illness. He was 68 years old.

Mr. Walsh retired in October 1971 after 30 years of Federal service, including over 23 with the Library of Congress. He served for four-and-a half years as an officer with the U.S. Navy during World War II and for more than 22 years on inactive duty, during which time he held positions of high responsibility and achieved the rank of colonel with the U.S. Air Force Reserve. In April 1948, he joined the staff of the Library and spent the next several years as head of sections in the former Aeronautics and Air Studies Divisions of the Reference Department. In 1951, he was appointed chief of the Air Research Division, renamed Defense Research Division in 1963 and the Federal Research Division in 1970.

In large measure, the early development and the continued growth and success of division programs through the 1950s and 1960s, in support of U.S. Department of Defense requirements, were the result of Mr. Walsh's personal contributions and unique qualifications, his professional expertise and dynamic leadership, and the high esteem in which he was held in the community he supported. He is credited with the development of new theories and concepts and with new techniques in the areas of information research and analysis. He authored or coauthored several technical publications which were accepted as the standards of excellence in their fields and are still included in the curricula of various Government-sponsored schools. During his tenure with the Library, he served on several Library committees, including those relating to management and data processing.

Mr. Walsh is survived by his wife, Marjorie, and a daughter, Leigh, of Leesburg, Fla.; a daughter, Randall L. Christian, of Columbia, S.C.; two sons, Richard C. Walsh and William T. Walsh III, both of Maryland; and five granddaughters. He was buried on July 25 in Arlington National Cemetery.

Staff Activities

America Folklife Center staff member **Carl Fleischhauer** is the author of two recently published articles. A brief article about his work in the Folklife Center and on *The American Cowboy* exhibition appeared in the summer issue of the *Kenyon College Alumni Bulletin*, along with a portfolio of exhibit photographs. The spring edition of *Picturescope*, the quarterly bulletin of the Picture Division of the Special Libraries Association, included his review of the photographic book by Ann Parker and Avon Neal about itinerant Guatemalan photographers entitled *Los Ambulantes*.

Scott Simmon, vault/collection attendant in the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division and film programmer for the Mary Pickford Theater, is the author of "After the New Frontier" in the August issue of the British journal, *Films*. The

article is the first installment of his history of the Western film since 1960, to run monthly in *Films* through December.

FRD Plans 35th Anniversary

In February, the Federal Research Division (FRD) marked the 35th year of its establishment in the Library of Congress. FRD was established as the Air Research Division in 1948 and renamed the Defense Research Division in 1963 and the Federal Research Division in 1970.

The division will celebrate the occasion on October 14 with a 35th anniversary party at Oxon Hill Manor, a Georgian-style mansion overlooking the Potomac River and built in 1928 for Summer Welles, Undersecretary of State during the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Up to 300 members of the staff, alumni, and friends of the division are expected to attend. Former staff members are invited to contact Earl Rothermel, tel. (202) 287–5900, for further information.

Joaceli M. Rocha, chief of the Processing Section in the Library of Congress office in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, receives a certificate of commendation for outstanding performance from U.S. consul general Samuel Lupo at a recent awards ceremony.

Fire Drills Set for October

In accordance with Library regulations, unannounced building evacuation drills will be held in the Library's Adams, Jefferson, and Madison Buildings during October. Building-wide evacuation drills will also be conducted during October at the Landover Center Annex and Taylor Street Annex. Drills will be conducted for Federal Research Division staff at the Navy Yard Annex as scheduled by the General Services Administration (GSA).

Emergency instructions for the Library buildings on Capitol Hill were distributed to all staff members in a special announcement issued August 23. Designated officials in other Library locations will issue emergency instructions to occupants of those buildings. The designated officials for these buildings are Floyd D. Hedrick, Landover Center Annex; A. C. Turner of the Federal Protective Service (GSA), Navy Yard Annex; and F. Kurt Cylke, Taylor Street Annex.

Staff members are responsible for assisting readers and other visitors during building evacuation drills or on any occasion when there is an actual emergency condition in the buildings.

Zone wardens will assure that appointments to the Emergency Organization for their fire zones are current and that all members of their organizations have been instructed in their duties. Revised Emergency Organization Staffing Charts should be posted on official bulletin boards within each fire zone no later than September 30.

Building evacuation drills are under the direction of the Library's safety officer. Any questions concerning the drills should be directed to him on ext. 76204.

WRA Cooking Club Plans Annual Pecan Sale

It's that time of year again. From 11:30 a.m. to 12 noon during the week of September 26, the Library's WRA Cooking Club will take prepaid orders for this year's crop of fresh pecans. The club will be taking orders outside the Library's cafeteria on the sixth floor of the Madison Building.

The cellophane-packaged pecans sell for $4.25 a pound. They are produced by the Mascot Pecan Co., Inc., of Glennville, Ga.

Staff members wishing to place mail orders may do so using the order form now being distributed to all employees. Orders should be sent to Roslyn Rakoff, Catalog Management and Publication Division, room LA 2029. Checks should be made payable to the LC WRA Cooking Club.

The annual pecan sale has become a major source of revenue for the Cooking Club. This fundraising

event has grown from a small quantity of orders more than 30 years ago to orders for more than a ton of pecans annually. Proceeds are donated to food-related charities in the Washington, D.C., area and to the WRA Welfare Fund.

Personnel Changes

Appointments: James Eble, clerk/messenger, GS–4, CRS C, 30336; Susan Epstein, analyst in agricultural policy, GS–9, CRS ENR, 30091; Steven Fine, copyright examiner, GS–9, Cop Exam, 30262; Matthew Koch, research analyst, G S–7, FRD, 20541; R. Neuswanger, preliminary cataloger, GS–5, Share Cat, 30291; Charlotte Ou, African-Asian exchange accessioner, GS–5, E&G, 30319; Theresa Wilson, preliminary cataloger, GS–5, Share Cat, 30297.

Temporary Appointments: Donna Edwards, library aid, GS–1, G&M, NP; Sharon Seldon, library aid, GS–1, CRS ENR, NP; Jennifer Simon, analyst in environmental policy, GS–5, CRS ENR, NP; George Thuronyi, editorial assistant, GS–5, NLS/BPH, NP.

Reappointments: Jennifer Jensen, reading room assistant for looseleaf service, GS–4, LL AB, 30428; Lorna Stoddard, research analyst, GS–9, FRD, 30009.

Temporary Reappointment: Sara Yates, ISIS clerk (date transcribing), GS–4, CRS RAM, 30337.

Promotion: Cassandra Ricks, to assistant head, Circulation Section, GS–11, Loan, 30400.

Resignations: James Agenbroad, Photodup; Brian Ashford, CRS E; Adrea Baker, LR; John Carlson, CDS; Emmett Carson, CRS EPW; Nina Fenton, CRS L; Yuri Gawdiak, ASO; Sharon Green, LL AB; Cheri Hembrey, CIP; Marietta Lipsey, Cop Acq & Proc; Susan Mackenzie, CRS ENR; Sheila Maith, LR; Catherine Morales, NLS/BPH; Sherwood Moulton, MARC Ed; Ethan Nelson, CRS C; Karen Nelson, CRS S; James O' Connor, NLS/BPH; Randy Rabenold, CRS A; Susan Schjelderup, CRS Gov; Angela Shell, CRS L; Rosalind Siegel, Health; Thomas L. van der Vort, Jr., CRS C.

Staff Carpool Locator Planned

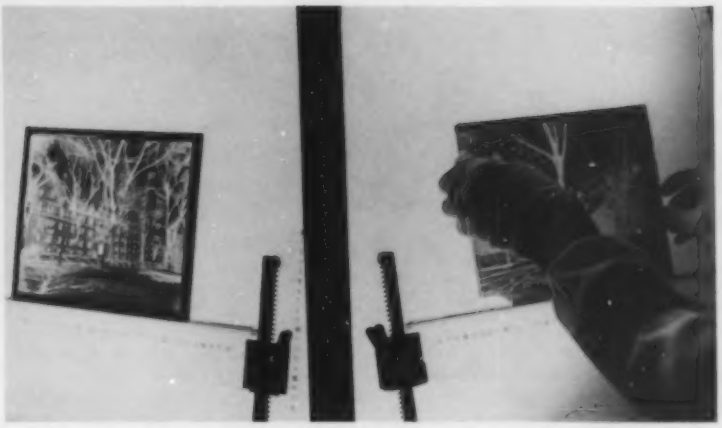
The *Information Bulletin* invites its readers on the Library staff to submit to the Information Office requests relating to carpools for publication in the *Bulletin*. This invitation is extended both to riders seeking carpools and carpools seeking riders.

Staff members should submit these requests in writing to the Information Office (LM 103) addressed to Editor, LC *Information Bulletin*. Requests should contain the person's name, division, extension, destination, and whether the person is seeking a carpool or a rider.

This information will be published in the *Bulletin* as frequently as the demand warrants.

Birth Announcement

Linda and Lawrence McCain are the parents of a son, Ryan Andrew, born on August 22 at Prince George's County Hospital. Mr. McCain has been with the Library since 1977 and is a warehouseman at the Procurement and Supply Division. They are also the parents of a son, Edward.



The device pictured above, a carousel especially designed by Image Premastering of St. Paul, Minn., a Sony subcontractor, for copying images onto film for transfer to video disk, holds two glass negatives from the Detroit Publishing Co. Collection.

disks with drawings and photographs (1, 2, and 3) will serve preservation by reducing the need to handle the original materials.

It is worth noting, however, that the still images have been photographed on 35mm motion picture negative film, which is transferred to video when the disk is mastered. The choice of 35mm film provides a higher resolution form than the NTSC signal requires (16mm would probably suffice), but it is sensible when one considers that the film itself is also a preservation medium. It will be properly stored, and, in the future, if a high-definition television standard comes into use, it can be retransferred to video without the need to rephotograph the collections.

Video disks may be able to retain image color more accurately than some motion picture film stocks. Not only do some film prints suffer from color shifts, but their negatives may also change color in time. Thus, even though the NTSC television signal is incapable of reproducing every nuance of a motion picture image, the Library will create and test a video disk for motion picture color preservation testing (4). For certain films, such disks may be the only feasible preservation medium available.

The second motion picture video disk (5) represents another aspect of preservation, perhaps better called restoration. The paper print collection dates from the very earliest days of film and film copyright. The Library's original copies of this historically important body of work are literally on paper rather than on film. The imagery is unstable in various ways, and the speed (frame rate) fluctuates. The transfer to video disk will involve sophisticated analysis of the footage, and frame-by-frame image correction.

Implications for an Integrated Catalog

The nonprint optical disk experiment will make an indirect contribution to the goal of an integrated catalog. This goal may be understood as a desire to use a single locus—the Library's computerized catalog—to inform a researcher of all relevant holdings in the institution. The program's indirect contribution to this goal will be derived from the disks containing the Prints and Photographs Division collections, but the work may serve as a model for other special collections.

The nonprint program will not create new records or files for the catalog. At this time, there is no approved MARC format for visual image collections, although there is a preliminary version. The nonprint program will not create a catalog in the full sense of the word, but it will prepare some new records where none existed before and will test the automated retrieval of visual images. Although MARC records cannot be created now, the new records—called captions in this article—will be structured in a manner similar to the preliminary MARC format. As noted below, the creation and testing of the experimental automated retrieval system will be one of the nonprint program's most important efforts. The operation of the system will help the Library consider thoughtfully the next step toward the broad goal of catalog integration.

The Experiment's Five Facets

There are five facets to the nonprint experiment:

(1) *Technical.* The creation of the disks presents the Library with a set of production and design problems. What is the best and most efficient way to prepare materials to be put onto a disk? What targets (title cards) and menus are required, and how shall they be created? Which production steps can best be performed in-house, and which by an outside contractor?

(2) *Copyright and gift restrictions.* The Copyright Office has determined that materials with valid copyrights may not be displayed to the public without the permission of the copyright holders. Similar restrictions may be in force as part of an instrument of gift. The project will confront these issues when they arise. If a large number of disks is to be created in the future, a procedure to obtain permissions will have to be developed.

(3) *Preservation.* The preservation facet of the nonprint experiment will test the endurance of the disks, not the collections they contain. This facet of the experiment will be of the utmost importance for the disks that directly preserve items (the digital audio disks, the teleproductions disk, and the motion picture disks).

(4) *Research access and use.* This facet of the experiment will determine how well the disks perform for the Library's readers. Can users of the still image disks find the pictures they seek, and identify them? Will motion picture researchers be satisfied with the disk's representation of a feature film? How well does the playback equipment work? Is it easy to operate? This facet of the experiment will be of the utmost importance for the disks that do not directly

CRE:	Jackson, William Henry, 1843-1942, photographer
TITLE:	Tamil coolies plucking the green leaf <tea>
DATE:	<1895>
PUBL:	Harper's Weekly, 1895, p. 511 (wood engraving)
REPRO:	LC-D4271-226 (b+w)
LOC:	Lot 11946, no. 226
COLL:	World Transportation Commission Trip
SUBJ:	SRI LANKA
SUBJ:	PLANTATION CROPS--TEA--SRI LANKA
SUBJ:	CONTRACT LABOR--SRI LANKA
FRAME:	23758
RECORD:	83-00046

Opposite is a sample of what a researcher using the Prints and Photographs Division disks might see: above, an image as it would appear on the video disk and, below, the caption. The captions for the Prints and Photographs Division video disk will be stored as a data base in a microcomputer equipped with a retrieval software package. Researchers will be able to search either the textual data or browse the images on the disk.

preserve items (the disks containing still images).

(5) *Dissemination.* The program will disseminate information about the program by staging presentations and demonstrations for Library staff and interested outsiders and by preparing publications and news releases to communicate with a broad audience. In addition, other libraries and research institutions will be permitted to borrow selected disks and their accompanying booklets and data. Although this is an important part of the program, it must not overwhelm the preceding facets.

Research Access and Use

Introduction

The research access and use facet of the experiment is important and intriguing. To some degree, however, it will also be frustrating. Some of the Library's special collections will be sparsely represented on the limited number of disks to be created. For example, there will be only two television broadcasts on disk. This would be like having only two issues of the *New York Times* on microfilm. How could such a microfilm be tested for research in a reading room? Only mere chance would bring a reader who sought those issues through the door. This sparsity afflicts not only the television section of the project, but also the motion picture and audio sections. In none of those three media will enough material be available for a true user test.

In contrast, however, the three disks with still images offer a large number of items. Their scope permits a valid and thorough test of the possibilities for laser video disk representation of still image collections. Although the video disk image is not of preservation quality, it can make a significant contribution in the area of access and retrieval. It is in this arena—access and use of disks containing still images—that the nonprint experiment will devote the greatest portion of its energy.

The access and use experiment for the three still image disks will test two significantly different retrieval methods. For the Prints and Photographs Division materials, a small computer will provide captions and a retrieval system. For the film publicity stills from the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, a simple, alphabetical title index will be used.

The Prints and Photographs Division Disks

The great value of video disks for these collections will be in vastly improved access and in the indirect preservation accomplished by a reduced need for handling of the originals. Improved access will result from the use of a small computer equipped with a search and retrieval system. The data base to be searched will be the collected picture captions. Captions should be understood here as relatively lengthy lists of information about a picture, including the name of the creator, the title, subject terms, date of creation, copyright information, storage location of the original image, existence of copy negatives, and any additional information that may be available.

If a researcher wishes to locate the work of a particular photographer or a scene including a particular subject, the automated system will search the data base. This may be thought of as analogous to the searches possible on the Library's computerized catalog. Once data identifying a set of images has been located, the computer can then instruct the video disk player to display the images. Alternatively a researcher can choose to browse through the pictures on the video screen and, if interesting examples are found, instruct the computer to produce the captions. The idea for such a system is not new and many institutions with

visual collections have talked about it for several years. None has developed true operating systems, however, and the Library has a genuine opportunity here to offer leadership in the field.

The creation of a new computerized search and retrieval system would be costly and time consuming. Fortunately, commercially produced search and retrieval software is readily available, and the Library plans to select a package for use during the experiment. The data (captions) would be formatted along MARC lines and entered in lowest common denominator form. A computerized data base, of course, can be filled in or updated as new information becomes available.

The value of such a computer-based system is obvious, and the optical disk experiment must include this feature. Unfortunately, little of the still image material has been cataloged, and the data base will have to built from scratch. A large number of images will be on the disks, and the project would be delayed if data for all of them had to be entered before system start-up. In order to permit prompt use of the system, the data base will be prepared in phases.

In the first phase, full captions will be created for a small portion of the whole, partial captions for another portion, and the remainder left uncaptioned. This phase will take about five months to complete, at which time the data base will be large enough to allow considerable use and effective demonstration of the system. Most of the partially captioned and uncaptioned images will be processed in the second phase. Any remaining captions will be prepared during a third phase. In the interim, a reseacher interested in these images will browse the disk and use a booklet that will point to reference information available elsewhere.

The dissemination of the Prints and Photographs Division materials will involve sharing both the video disks and the data base. Since the search and retrieval system for the experiment will be proprietary, it cannot be shared. The Library will attempt to select search and retrieval software that is readily available or likely to be in widespread use. Still, some borrowers will have to make use of the data base and a rudimentary index in hard copy form. Greater availability of machine-readable data will await a future expansion of the program.

If the experiment succeeds, the Prints and Photographs Division will create additional disks to the extent that resources permit.

The Motion Picture Stills

This disk will improve access to the motion picture stills collection. The Library's film collection is indexed by title (there is no catalog in the usual sense of the word), and this disk will offer researchers the stills in the same way—by film title. Access is improved because search time is reduced compared to the time spent finding and pulling vertical files.

The motion picture stills will be arranged in alphabetical order by film title. Essentially, a viewer will browse this collection. The disk will include an index-like table of contents listing the 6,700 films represented. A sophisticated (but noncomputerized) finding aid will enable readers to locate quickly sections of this table of contents. A booklet will accompany this disk, primarily to present relevant copyright information.

This arrangement means that the hardware requirements are slight: only a player and monitor will be needed. And, unlike the Prints and Photographs Division disks, with their need for on-site reference assistance, this disk can be used with far less help. By placing a copy in the Performing Arts Library at the Kennedy Center, the feasibility of remote use of the disk may be tested.

If this disk is perceived as a success, plans will be made to put other motion picture still image collections on disks. As these additional disks are created, however, plans may also be made to prepare a data base and employ a computer sytstem like the one used with the Prints and Photograph Division disks.

The Motion Picture Disks

Video disks containing motion pictures—whether the ones produced by this project, commercially published disks, or ones produced by the Library in the future—will not have the substantial impact on access and use that the still image disks will have. Most video disks of films contain only one or two titles. With disks containing tens of thousands of still images, finding one's place is a critical problem. With a disk containing a few film titles, this problem is negligible. The retrieval issue is, in fact, a cataloging issue. The disk may take the place of (or supplement) the can of film, but both items are sought and retrieved from a general catalog of motion pictures in the Library's collection. No new retrieval system is called for.

For the optical disk program, the access and use question becomes one of acceptability. To what degree will the quality of the representation of a film on a video disk inhibit research? The severely limited scope of the two disks being created by the optical disk project prevents them from offering a broad base for answering this question. But two possibilities present themselves. First, the project's two disks can be shown to selected readers who will be asked for a reaction. A second possibility would be to test reader response to motion pictures on video disk by using the 200-odd commercially published laser video disks of feature films as a stand-in for the Library's collection.

A significant portion of the Library's film collection consists of feature films. Thus the stand-in video disks would be representative and would permit a genuine assessment of attitudes. By making these disks available at the Kennedy Center Performing Arts Library, the base for testing could be broadened further. The shortcoming of the stand-in test is that commercially published video disks never include the full film frame (they are cropped to the so-called television safe area in the center of the film image). Many researchers will wish to compare the television-safe versions with full-frame versions.

The disk that will contain selections from the turn-of-the-century paper print collection will explore an additional research-related aspect: the role video disks can play with large bodies of archival material. Here a video disk would not only preserve footage, but also make the material more accessible for cataloging. Since the paper prints have already been indexed to a significant degree, the full testing of this possibility will await a second round of work.

If the disks of motion pictures are perceived as a success, more will be created in the future, especially of films that are frequently requested by researchers, large bodies of archival footage, or color films in danger of fading.

The Teleproductions Disk

The comments offered in regard to video disks of motion pictures generally apply to the disk with television broadcasts. Retrieval and access are accomplished by a general catalog and do not require within-disk searches. If the transfer to video disk is perceived as successful, the method will be employed for television programs to the extent that resources permit.

The Digital Audio Disks

Because digital audio disks are a full preservation medium, the main thrust of the nonprint experiment will be preservation testing. Neither of the two audio disks will contain extensive material. The form is limited to one hour of program material. For reasons similar to those noted in the discussion of video disks of motion pictures and teleproductions, no new retrieval system is required. A good catalog of the Library's recorded sound collection will enable a researcher to find an item.

The disk players, however, lend themselves to sophisticated automated playback. A music researcher, for example, might instruct the player to repeat a musical phrase again and again and thereby facilitate comprehension and transcription. The experiment may examine the potential of this capability in a one-shot test.

If these disks live up to their promise, Library sound collections—especially the most endangered by physical deterioration—will be transferred to digital form and to digital disks as resources permit. New recordings, especially those made in digital form, will be put on digital disks to the extent that resources permit.

User Station Design

The nonprint experiment will require two or three user stations. Although it is impossible to predict accurately the frequency of use, the reference staff estimates from two to five readers per day in the Prints and Photographs Reading Room, and probably fewer in the Motion Picture Reading Room. One user station will suffice for each of these reading rooms. The station in the Prints and Photographs Reading Room will require a separate computer to operate its caption and retrieval system. The station in the Motion Picture Reading Room will display both the stills collection and motion pictures and will consist of only a player and monitor. The third station, optional at this writing, could be set up in the Performing Arts Library in the Kennedy Center. It would be identical to the one in the Motion Picture Reading Room and supplied with the same disks on a shared basis. This station's primary purpose would be to test remote use of the disks.

Each user station will require some accessories: instructional materials, a data printer for the user station in the Prints and Photographs Reading Room, and a convenience image printer for the still image disks. The instructions would communicate the underlying concept of the video disk, and explain how to operate the player and computer. The disks themselves are to contain information that pertains to their particular contents, but not general information about equipment operation. The data printer is analogous to the printers available to SCORPIO users. The convenience image printer would probably be some form of Polaroid camera, possibly coin-operated. It would not make reproduction-quality images (television screen picture quality precludes this in any case), but it would take the place of the photocopy machine that visual researchers use today to make scratch reference prints.

The experiment will test the overlay, or superimposition, of captions on still images. The advantage of the overlay method is that both the visual image and the text are displayed on a single screen. This not only integrates the data, but also reduces the amount of hardware required for a user station. Two methods for overlaying will be tested: a method that uses the NTSC signal and an RGB method which beams the text information directly onto the picture tube for greater clarity. The disadvantage of the overlay is the risk that the combined image may be cluttered and the text hard to read. The experiment will alternate an overlay display with a two-screen display, in which the visual image is on one screen and the text on another. An advantage of the two-screen method is that the text can be displayed on a high-resolution computer-type screen, which offers a larger number of readable characters.

Evaluation Testing

The experiment will be evaluated by a combination of informal and formal techniques. The most important informal evaluation will come from the reference staff. These librarians will work with the patrons who use the disks, and they will be perfectly situated to observe how well the system performs. In addition, they can compare this performance with their prior experience with the same collections.

The formal evaluation should be overseen by a specialist. If predictions of the relatively limited use of nonprint disks are accurate, one or two specialists might serve both the print and nonprint sides of the optical disk program. Working with optical disk project staff, this team would devise and administer questionnaires. The questionnaires would be supplemented by tape recorded interviews with selected patrons and reference staff, which would be transcribed for study. Another potential source of data for the evaluation of the nonprint experiment is the computer program for the Prints and Photographs Division disks. It may be able to keep records of use.

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